

# FACT SHEET



## **Oronogo-Duenweg Mining Belt Site Jasper County, Missouri**

**August 2000**

### **BACKGROUND**

The Oronogo-Duenweg Mining Belt site is an inactive lead and zinc mining and smelting area in the southwestern portion of Jasper County, Missouri. Mining and smelting operations began in the mid 1800s and included hundreds of mines and 17 smelters. One smelter in the city of Joplin operated until the 1970s, which resulted in air emissions contaminating soil in a large area. Sample results show the soil, ground water and surface water are contaminated with lead, zinc and cadmium from the mining and smelting activities.

### **SITE UPDATE**

The U.S. Environmental Protection (EPA) Region 7's Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) is now available for public review and comment. The EE/CA presents the cleanup alternatives for a Superfund removal at the site.

The Missouri Department of Transportation (MDOT) has completed plans to construct a four-lane highway. The highway will go through the site from 7<sup>th</sup> Street near Duenweg, Missouri, to Business 71 Highway near Carterville, Missouri. This area contains mining wastes contaminated with lead, zinc and cadmium.

The public comment period opened August 10, 2000 and closes September 8, 2000. The EE/CA is available for public review at the following information repositories, during normal business hours:

Joplin Public Library  
300 S. Main  
Joplin, Missouri

Carl Junction City Hall  
105 North Main  
Carl Junction, Missouri

Webb City Public Library  
101 South Liberty  
Webb City, Missouri

EPA Region 7  
901 N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Kansas City, Kansas

If there is sufficient community interest, EPA will hold an informal information session to answer questions about the site. This session would be scheduled during the public comment period.

### **EPA'S PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE**

EPA has determined that conditions at the site pose a sufficient threat to human health to justify a non-time critical removal action. EPA evaluated two removal alternatives to achieve these objectives: capping or excavation and on-site disposal.

EPA's preferred alternative is excavation and on-site disposal. At the community's request, EPA is proposing to have MDOT use approximately 588,000 cubic yards of contaminated mining wastes for fill in the highway construction.

### **NEXT STEPS**

EPA will make a final decision on how this portion of the site will be addressed. The decision will be published in a document called an Action Memorandum. EPA will consider public comments when preparing the Action Memorandum and prepare responses to such comments.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

EPA encourages the public to review and comment on the EE/CA and the recommended alternatives. EPA will not select a final removal action alternative until all comments received during the public comment period have been considered. Written comments, postmarked no later than September 8, 2000, questions about the site, or to request an information session concerning the site, should be directed to:

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Community Involvement Coordinator  
EPA Region 7  
901 N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Kansas City, Kansas 66101  
1-913-551-7003  
Toll-free 1-800-223-0425  
Fax: 1-913-551-7066,  
E-mail: [thomas.hattie@epa.gov](mailto:thomas.hattie@epa.gov)

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